

**Revised Wording for Forest Plan Amendment Number 10  
Custer National Forest  
Billings, Montana**

I have reviewed the Decision Notice for, and Amendment Number 10 of the Custer National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) as they appeared in the appendix of the Record of Decision for the Northern Little Missouri (NLM) Oil and Leasing Analysis, dated October 24, 1991.

Upon review of these documents, I have determined that this decision is not accurately reflected in the current wording of LRMP Amendment Number 10. The Decision Notice specifically states that "...I am amending the Forest Plan by changing the visual quality objective from 'partial retention' to 'retention' for **certain areas** surrounding the Park" (emphasis added). Amendment Number 10 states only that "[t]he seen area from Theodore Roosevelt National Park is assigned the VQO of Retention." Accordingly, I am revising the wording of Amendment Number 10 to read as follows to more accurately reflect the intent of the original decision:

**Forest Plan Amendment Number 10  
Custer National Forest  
Billings, Montana**

The Custer National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is amended as follows:

In the Forest Plan, page 45, C. Management Standards, 1. Recreation, item c., I am changing the second sentence to read: "***Certain seen areas from Theodore Roosevelt National Park is assigned the VQO of Retention, and the remainder of the seen area is assigned the VQO of Partial Retention.***"

In the Forest Plan, page 53, C. Management Standards, 1. Recreation, item c., I am changing the last sentence to read: "***Certain seen areas from Theodore Roosevelt National Park is assigned the VQO of Retention, and the remainder of the seen area is assigned the VQO of Partial Retention.***"

In the Forest Plan, page 58, C. Management Standards, 1. Recreation, item c., I am changing the second sentence to read: "***Certain seen areas from Theodore Roosevelt National Park is assigned the VQO of Retention, and the remainder of the seen area is assigned the VQO of Partial Retention.***"

The areas identified for management as "retention" in the Northern Little Missouri National Grasslands FEIS and ROD (as corrected) will be managed so that, "human activities are not evident to the casual forest visitor". The areas are available for oil and gas leasing, and will be leased with a "No Surface Occupancy Stipulation".

*for*   
NANCY T. CURRIDEN  
Forest Supervisor

1/19/95  
Date

DECISION NOTICE  
NONSIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO THE  
CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST, MONTANA, NORTH DAKOTA, AND SOUTH DAKOTA

AMENDMENT NUMBER 10  
VISUAL RESOURCES  
October 1991

DECISION NOTICE

**Decision:** It is my decision to amend the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Custer National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) based on additional field analysis and evaluation of the environmental effects of oil and gas leasing on portions of the various units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The additional analysis was done as part of the data gathering for the oil and gas leasing study for the Northern Little Missouri National Grasslands Environmental Impact Statement.

**Rationale for the Decision:** In the development of the NLMNG FEIS additional analysis of visual resources was conducted around Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Based on the analysis, I am amending the Forest Plan by changing the visual quality objective from "partial retention" to "retention" for certain areas surrounding the Park. The areas are available for oil and gas leasing and will be leased with a "No Surface Occupancy Stipulation" as stated in the Record of Decision for the NLMNG.

NONSIGNIFICANT NFMA AMENDMENT

This decision does not alter any of the long-term relationships between the level of good and services projected by the Forest Plan as disclosed in the Northern Little Missouri National Grasslands FEIS of September 1991. Therefore, this amendment is non-significant under NFMA (36 CFR 219.10(f)), and Forest Service Manual 1922.51, item 1 and 3.

IMPLEMENTATION

This decision will be implemented upon public notice. This Decision Notice is public notice and will be sent to all those who have requested notice of Forest Plan amendments and those who have participated in the amendment process. In addition, notice of this decision will be published in local newspapers.

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL**

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Any written notice of appeal to this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9, "Content of Notice of Appeal". As a minimum, a written notice of appeal filed with the reviewing officer must: 1) List the name, address, and telephone number of the appellant; 2) Identify the decision about which the requester objects; 3) Identify the document in which the decision is contained by title and subject, date of the decision, and name and title of the Deciding Officer; 4) Identify specifically that portion of the decision or decision document to which the requester objects; 5) State the reasons for objecting, including issues of fact, law, regulation, or policy and if applicable specifically how the decision violates law, regulation, or policy, and; 6) Identify the specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks. (36 CFR 217.9(b)). A written notice of appeal must be filed within 45 days of the date of this decision and sent to:

John Hughes, Acting Regional Forester  
Northern Region  
200 East Broadway  
PO Box 7669  
Missoula, MT 59801

Simultaneously a copy of the notice of appeal must be sent to the Deciding Officer, Forest Supervisor, Curtis W. Bates, PO Box 2556, Billings, MT 59103. The notice of appeal must be filed in compliance with the procedures identified in 36 CFR 217 (54 FR 3357).

**CONTACT PERSON**

Further information about this decision can be obtained from:

Leroy White, Planning Program Officer  
Custer National Forest  
PO Box 2556  
Billings, MT 59103  
(406) 657-6361

## Appendix A

### Forest Plan Amendment Number 10 Custer National Forest Billings, Montana

The Custer National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is amended as follows:

In the Forest Plan, page 45, C. Management Standards, 1. Recreation, item c., I am changing the second sentence to read: ***"The seen area from Theodore Roosevelt National Park is assigned the VQO of Retention."*** In the Forest Plan, page 53, C. Management Standards, 1. Recreation, item c., I am changing the last sentence to read: ***"The seen area from Theodore Roosevelt National Park is assigned the VQO of Retention."*** In the Forest Plan, page 58, C. Management Standards, 1. Recreation, item c., I am changing the second sentence to read: ***"The seen area from Theodore Roosevelt National Park is assigned the VQO of Retention."*** The areas identified for management as "retention" in the Northern Little Missouri National Grasslands FEIS will be managed so that, "human activities are not evident to the casual forest visitor". The areas are available for oil and gas leasing, and will be leased with a "No Surface Occupancy Stipulation".

I am amending the Forest Plan (pages 45, 53, and 58) to read "retention" instead of "partial retention".

  
CURTIS W. BATES  
Forest Supervisor

10/24/91  
Date

**ERRATA SHEET**  
**Corrections to the Visual and Auditory Inventory**  
**Around Theodore Roosevelt National Park**  
**Northern Little Missouri Oil & Gas Leasing EIS**  
**January, 1995**

The National Park Service (NPS) questioned the technical data used to make the 1991 Oil and Gas Leasing Decision for the Northern Little Missouri National Grasslands as shown in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on Maps AA.4, AA.5, AA.6, AA.7, AA.9, AA.10, AA.11, AA.12, and AA.13. In January, 1993, the NPS provided the Forest Service (FS) with a computer generated map of the seen areas from various viewpoints inside the three Theodore Roosevelt National Park Units. The Forest Service accepted the viewshed data from the park as a better data source than the viewshed map used to make the leasing decision.

FS landscape architects remapped the variety class designations which had been questioned by the NPS. (See FEIS page 3-44 for definitions of variety classes.) They worked with aerial photos in May 1994 and a field check in August, 1994. From the aerial photographs, it was determined that some areas near the park boundary should be changed to "A-Distinctive" variety class.

Analysis was done using 1) the new data (variety class map and seen area NPS map); 2) the following factors used in the original decision - variety class, nearness to the park, number of seen wells on private and federal minerals, ownership of the surface and mineral estates in the viewsheds, currently leased and unleased federal minerals; and 3) the protection to the viewsheds provided by other resource values.

As a result of the new inventory data, some minor changes are needed under the existing decision. A mapping correction will be made to apply No Surface Occupancy (NSO) in 4 small areas and the Controlled Surface Use (CSU) stipulation will be extended to 1 mile around the Elkhorn Park Unit.

Corrections will be made for these areas:

T 148 N, R 100 W, 5th PM (North Unit - NSO)  
Section 14: portions of SE

T 148 N, R 99 W, 5th PM (North Unit - NSO)  
Section 21: portions of S2  
Section 22: SWSW, portions of NWSW, SESW

T 140 N, R 102 W, 5th PM (South Unit - NSO)  
Section 8: portions of SE  
Section 17: portions of E2

T 140 N, R 101 W, 5th PM (South Unit - NSO)  
Section 33: portion of NE lying south of Interstate right-of-way

T 143 N, R 102 W, 5th PM (Elkhorn Unit - CSU)  
Lands within 1 mile of Elkhorn Ranch and State Historic tracts. Federal lands are located within sections 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9.